



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
tlingit and haida indian tribes of alaska  
ANDREW P HOPE BUILDING  
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-9983

March 4, 2000

Michelle Brown, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Commissioner Brown,

Please find enclosed Resolution EC/00-06, titled: Object to Cruise Ship Dumping of Pollutants in Southeast Alaska Waters. The resolution was unanimously passed by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000. As the resolution states, there are a significant concerns regarding contamination of marine resources by cruise ship activities. This resolution requests that the State and Federal agencies responsible for cruise ship discharges prohibit dumping of any products within 12 miles of any Southeast Alaska beach. This resolution calls for a requirement to have all cruise ships have monitors to detect discharges. This resolution further calls fines and exclusion from Southeast waters for those cruise ships that illegally discharge.

The Central Council encourages and supports the newly formed interagency Cruise Ship Initiative. There are many challenges facing this team such as who has jurisdictional authority over cruise ships activities. It is staggering to think that even now it was not clear which agency and which regulations governed discharges to Alaska water and air from these massive floating cities. Obviously this needs to change soon. This was recently demonstrated as the Environmental Protection Agency, in the absence of any State action, began monitoring cruise ship air emission and found air quality discharges in violation of law during every single monitoring effort last summer. Still another example of the lack of environmental leadership was demonstrated when the cruise ship industry stated that they did not use TBT anti fouling paint on the hauls of their ships, but later admitted they did. TBT is one of the most toxic forms of marine pollution, and it is legal in Alaska on the cruise ships. Fortunately a State Senate Bill authored by Senator Loren Leman to ban tributyl tin use recently passed, and a House version is expected. Now there is strong public concern about these issues, which is forcing governmental action. Take this opportunity to demonstrate that pollution of our State by cruise ships will not be tolerated.

The importance of access to uncontaminated marine subsistence foods is of the highest importance. Concerns about contamination in subsistence foods are already high. Here is an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in stopping this source of marine pollution. The Central Council encourages action that goes beyond the minimum required under the current regulations.

Sincerely

Edward K. Thomas  
President

cc: MarshaCombes, Director of Alaska Operations Environmental Protection Agency  
Steven A. Torok, Senior Representative, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Tom Chapple, Director, Division of Air and Water Quality  
Frank Rue, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
John Hansen, President, North West Cruise Ship Association  
Captain Ed Page, U.S. Coast Guard



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Executive Council of the Central Council  
TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC/00-06

**Title: Object to Cruise Ship Dumping of Pollutants in Southeast Alaska Waters**

WHEREAS, the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska is a federally recognized tribe that is strongly committed to the protection of the environment of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, pollution dumped from cruise ships during the summer months pollute the beaches of Southeast Alaska and all tidal plants, shellfish and animals; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit and Haida people (as well as other Southeast Alaska residents) utilize tidal plants, shellfish and animals for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, tidal plants shellfish and animals that are contaminated by waste discharged by cruise ships are harmful to people who consume them; and

WHEREAS, it is nearly impossible to detect polluted marine life by their appearance; and

WHEREAS, it is not necessary for the cruise ships to dump pollutants in the waters of Southeast Alaska at any time.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska respectfully request federal and state agencies to prohibit the dumping of any products from cruise ships within 12 miles of any Southeast Alaska beach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it be a requirement for all cruise ships entering Southeast Alaska to have monitoring devices installed on all systems that have the potential of discharging material into the water before they are allowed to come within 12 miles of Southeast Alaska beaches; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cruise ships caught violating dumping policies be fined a minimum of \$20,000 and not be allowed to enter Southeast Alaska waters for a period of not less than 1 year.

ADOPTED this 4th day of February 2000 by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska by a vote of -5- ayes; -0- nays; -0- abstentions; and -0- absences.

CERTIFY

  
President

ATTEST

  
Tribal Secretary